

Serial No. 10/576,809
Amendment Dated: October 31, 2007
Quayle Office Action Mailed: August 31, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 101108.57579US

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 10-25 pending the correction of formal matters. In that regard, claims 10, 18 and 21 have been amended. A new title has been provided. An amendment has been made to the specification and Figure 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants amended claim 10 to note the plural “flights” as suggested by the Examiner. Similarly, claim 18 has been amended to reference the plural “shafts” (for example, 12 and 20). Finally, the dependency of claim 21 has been amended per the Examiner’s suggestion. As such, Applicants submit the claims are now allowable.

Applicants have provided a new title that incorporates a feature of allowed claim 10. As such, Applicants submit the title is now indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Regarding the drawing objections, Applicants have amended Figure 2 to illustrate schematically a connecting duct 35 constructed in the first housing part 2a that mutually connects the flights 23 of the input transfer mix area 22. A corresponding amendment has been made to paragraph 15 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicants submit the subject matter of claim 22 is now shown in

the drawings. Additionally, Applicants have amended Figure 2 to clearly show reference numeral "14".

Regarding the other drawing objections, Applicants respectfully submit these features are found in the present drawings. In particular, Figure 1 illustrates the input 12 and output 20 screw shafts having a flight depth that decreases toward the gear section 2b. This can be seen, for example, from the lower part of Figure 1 to the left of the gear section, wherein the input screw shaft 12 increases in diameter when approaching the gear section, in which case the flight depth decreases toward the gear section. This is similarly true for the output screw shaft 20 on the right-hand side of the gear section, where also on a lower side it can be seen that the diameter of the screw shaft 20 is decreasing with an increasing distance from the gear section.

Regarding item b in the Office Action, wherein the flights are formed which extend in an opposite direction relative to the flights of the screw shafts, this can clearly be seen in Figure 2 wherein flights 23 are shown essentially "crossing over" the flights formed by the helical configuration 27 on the screw shaft 12. Regarding the increasing diameter of the flights of the housing, this is likewise depicted schematically in Figure 2 wherein flights 23 are shown "widening" toward the gear section. Also, in Figure 1, the indentations formed in the top housing wall section 2a are shown to have their diameters increased toward the gear section. Thus, Applicants submit the figures clearly depict the

flights having an increasing diameter towards the gear section while ending between the planet wheels 16 (as clearly shown in Figure 2). Regarding item c and the subject matter of claim 18, namely that the flight depths of the screw shaft disappear toward the gear section, this can be understood from Figure 1, wherein the screw shaft 12 on the left-hand side of the gear section comes up to the toothing of the gear section in the lower part of the shaft 12, which shows that the shaft depth increases to zero at this portion as the toothing extends radially over the diameter of the cylindrical part of the housing in which the screw shaft 12 is located.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit the specification and drawings are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112 to those of skilled in the art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the formal objections have been overcome and the application should be passed to issuance.

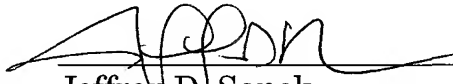
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101108.57579US).

Respectfully submitted,

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